

## Message Text

SECRET

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17

ACTION SS-25

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 /026 W

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R 251013Z APR 75

FM AMEMBASSY LONDON

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 0510

INFO AMEMBASSY MADRID

USMISSION NATO BRUSSELS

S E C R E T LONDON 06251

EXDIS

E.O. 11652: XGDS-1

TAGS: PFOR, SP, UK, NATO

SUBJECT: SPAIN AND NATO

REFS: STATE 93364 AND 93817

1. BRITISH (MORGAN, ASSISTANT UNDER SECRETARY) TOLD US APRIL 24 THAT THEY CONSIDER PROPOSED VISIT TO LONDON OF SPANISH OFFICIALS (MADRID 2725) IS STILL ON. SEE LONDON 6080. VISIT STRIKES US AS OPPORTUNE, AND LIKE THE DEPARTMENT (STATE 93364), WE SEE MERIT IN HAVING SPANISH MFA OFFICIALS HEAR AT FIRST-HAND BRITISH VIEWS OF THE PROBLEMS WHICH SPANISH ASSOCIATION WITH NATO POSES FOR THEM. FCO OFFICIALS WITH WHOM WE HAVE SPOKEN ARE NOT RELUCTANT TO HAVE THIS PROPOSED MEETING WITH SPANISH OFFICIALS, ESPECIALLY SINCE SPANISH OROPOSE TO TALK ABOUT EVERYTHING EXCEPT GIBRALTAR. IN FACT MORGAN TOLD US CALLAGHAN WELCOMES SUCH CONTACTS WITH THE SPANISH. FCO IS, HOWEVER, SENSITIVE ABOUT POSSIBLE PRESS AND MEDIA SPECULATION.

2. DCM HAS APPOINTMENT APRIL 28 WITH FCO PERMANENT UNDER SECRETARY BRIMELOW TO CARRY OUT INSTRUCTIONS IN STATE 91998.

3. SHORTLY AFTER THE AMBASSADOR'S DISCUSSION OF SPAIN

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AND NATO WITH FOREIGN SECRETARY CALLAGHAN, TICKELL (HEAD,

NATO OFFICE) TOLD US THAT CALLAGHAN HAD SENT HIM A NOTE EXPRESSING KEEN INTEREST IN OFFICIAL LEVEL TALKS ABOUT THE MODALITIES OF POSSIBLE SPANISH ASSOCIATION WITH NATO. TICKELL SAID CALLAGHAN HAD MADE CLEAR THAT WHAT HE HAD IN MIND WAS THE DEVELOPMENT OF A SCENARIO FOR NATO IN DEALING WITH SPAIN AFTER FRANCO; THERE WAS NO QUESTION, CALLAGHAN HAD STRESSED, OF EARLIER OVERT MOVES TO BRING SPAIN CLOSER TO NATO. TICKELL EXPRESSED STRONG PERSONAL INTEREST IN THE SPAIN-NATO ISSUE. HE WILL HAVE PRIMARY ACTION RESPONSIBILITY FOR THE MATTER IN THE FCO. HE PERSONALLY SUBSCRIBES TO THE PRINCIPLE THAT SPAIN IS AN IMPORTANT PART OF EUROPEAN DEFENSE AND THAT WAYS SHOULD BE FOUND TO STRENGTHEN MODERATE INFLUENCES IN SPAIN AFTER FRANCO HAS GONE.

4. SUBSEQUENTLY WE LEARNED FROM THE ACTING HEAD OF SOUTH WEST EUROPE DEPARTMENT THAT THE FCO IS PLANNING AN INTERNAL STUDY ON THE PROBLEM OF SPAIN'S ASSOCIATION WITH NATO IN THE POST-FRANCO PERIOD WHICH MAY GET UNDERWAY IN THE NEXT WEEK OR TEN DAYS. THIS OFFICIAL TOO EXPRESSED INTEREST IN FURTHER "INFORMAL" CONSULTATIONS WITH U.S.

RICHARDSON

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